

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

November 29, 2018

6:00 pm

Town Hall Rear Conference Room

Minutes

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Attendees: Mary O, Skip A, Patti K, Mike H, Margarita A, Janet A, Leslie S, Vernon B, Mike M, Mary Anne W, Susan M, Carole F, Elizabeth S, Mary M. Steve Wehr attended by phone.

Mary noted that the November meeting had been snowed out and rescheduled for this date, November 29.

A motion to cancel the December 2019 meeting was approved unanimously.

Mary noted that due to other commitments, Virginia Luppino has had to withdraw from service with the Task Force.

Europa McGovern NYSERDA CEC Coordinator could not attend the rescheduled meeting and will be on hand for the January meeting

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Climate Smart Actions Status Report

The Task Force is moving ahead briskly on meeting our Climate Smart actions in a timely fashion. Patti Kelly reported that she had completed the inventory of the town's energy usage for the greenhouse gas initiative. Mary said that reporting to the public on where we stand with the energy report and our Climate Smart actions generally will generate points for us as well.

Vernon reported that the town is active in its inquiry into purchasing an electric vehicle for the Glasco wastewater treatment facility usage.

He also noted that regarding Energy Audits on town buildings, the state's round of CFA grants haven't been announced, but NYSERDA has requested applications and will proceed with the grant once the audits are accepted. This is a different format from other CFA grants because we do not have to wait for a formal announcement on those grants to begin this one. The town hall, Greco Center, and town hall will be audited.

Public Event Climate-related Campaign

The Task Force agreed on May 4, 2019, as the date for a public event on the Task Force's climate-related campaign. The campaign will run from noon to 4 p.m. Vernon noted that two additional, and perhaps more, EV charging stations will be in place by that date. Carole offered to give a presentation on residential energy audits. Steve Weir is hoping a number of Electric Vehicles (4 or 5) will be there. Margarita said she can do photography and possibly help with a children's project booth. Janet can help with publicity.

Food composting

Mary McNamara's food composting project at the town transfer station fell into place quickly and is going well. The program will need more marketing but is already quite promising. A next step is to get restaurants involved, Mary M. reported. Vernon suggested a mailer with the tax bill – Mary will call the Town Clerk to check if there are legal issues. Patti pointed out that letters to the editor are effective. Leslie suggested partnering with drywall contractors to get free 5-gallon buckets.

Shade in public places

Mary raised the need for a public policy on shade places in the town. Vernon noted that Rosemarie Brackett is the tree expert in the village, which has an effective program in place. He also said that the Greenway application for a gazebo at the Terpening Memorial Park in Malden used the climate-change argument about heat effects in its application for the gazebo.

Budget

The Task Force budget was discussed. The CAC requested \$2,500 from the recent NYSERDA grant to the town for its 2019 budget needs.

A discussion of possible marketing items took place. Susan and Skip have looked into purchasing some and came up with a cost of bags of from \$4.00 - \$9.50 each. Some have 50 bag minimum and some have 100 minimums in bulk purchases. Skip found a 2.5' by 10' banner for \$75. Patti will pursue sponsors

Adjournment: 7:10 pm

II REGULAR BUSINESS 7:00 pm

Attendees: Mary O, Skip A, Mike H, Leslie S, Mary M, Vernon B, Mike M, MaryAnne W, Carole F, Elizabeth S, Stan O'Dell (village)

Aquatic Invasive Species

In old business, the CAC discussed the problem with invasive species on the Esopus Creek. Stan O'Dell was on hand from the Village Waterfront Advisory Board, representing Trustee Jeff Helmuth. Stan confirmed that the village would be the owner applying for a permit, since this was off the beach property. Leslie asked if the issue was "on the village's radar"; yes, they are aware of efforts to clean up the invasives. In discussing the approach, Leslie reported that the best month for dye tests was August, when the flow is the lowest; a test would need to be done over a 24-48 hour period. Mary noted that there were water quality, fishery, sedimentation, and recreation issues affected by the invasives. The CAC was looking into a proposal by Glenn Sullivan of Solitude Lake Management. Mike H. and Stan recommended a joint town/village board meeting; Mary suggested that other municipalities also might be involved.

A Motion was approved to recommend a meeting with the Town (Supervisor, Mary M, Leslie S), Village (Mayor, Kathy McGlynn, Jeff Helmuth), Cornell Cooperative (Jared), Ulster County Dep't of the Environment, possibly Esopus Creek Conservancy, possibly for January 2019.

Waste Management Conference

Elizabeth S. attended a Waste Management Conference at SUNY Ulster on Nov 10th, and reported highlights.

Town Board Liaison Report

Mike and Councilman Andreassen attended a NYSERDA Photovoltaic Day Trip in Orange County on October 26, and viewed four projects.

A Planning Board Workshop for 750 kW Community Solar project on Old Kings Highway was led by Solar Generation.

The town board approved a \$2500 budget for the CAC in 2019.

The Composting Program was memorialized in the Nov 28th Town Board meeting

Planning Board Report

No report

Adjournment – 8:40 pm